WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Research on vectors by the Vector Control Research Laboratories Pondicherry

*22. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vector Control Research Laboratories, Pondicherry have been working on resistance to pesticides amongst the vectors of human diseases like malaria, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the vectors in the country have turned resistant to pesticides and if so, the details of the pesticides tested and the levels of pesticide resistance;

(c) whether any remedial steps have been worked out in this regard; and

(d) whether the malarial parasites have also turned resistant, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry, under the Indian Council of Medical Research has been conducting tests on sensitivity of malaria and filaria vectors to insecticides.

One of the species transmitting filariasis (mansoniodes) was found to be resistant to DDT, though susceptible to BHC. With regard to other major species transmitting filaria, tests are in progress.

The susceptibility study on one of the malaria transmitting vector (Anopheles culicifacies) was found to be resistant to DDT/BHC in Koraput District, Orissa.

(b) Out of studies made so far on the nine malaria vectors in the country, three vectors (A. Culicifacies, A. annalaris, A. Stephensi) have been found to be resistant to conventional insecticides in some parts of the country. The insecticides tested are mostly DDT, dieldrin and malathion. A. Culicifacies was found resistant to DDT in 261 districts, to DDT and dieldrin in 141 of these districts; and to all the three insecticides in 62 of those districts. A annolaris was found resistant to DDT in 45 districts, and to DDT and dieldrin in 7, of these districts. A. stephensi was found resistant to DDT in 34 districts, to DDT and dieldrin in 19 of those districts and to all the three insecticides in 7 of these districts.

(c) The remedial measures taken are:-

— Change to alternative insecticides such as DDT, BHC, Malathion, depending on vector resistance to a particular insecticide.

— emphasis on source reduction methods.

(d) Yes, Sir. The malignant variety of malaria parasite (P. falciparum) has developed resistance to the drug chloroquine in certain pockets of the country. In these areas alternative combination drugs are administered like Sulfa Pyrimethamine to treat such cases.

Homoeopathic drugs useful in birth control

*24. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express, dated the 10th April, 1989 under